

FACTS AND FANCIES OF INTEREST TO WOMEN.

DAINTY FROCKS MADE BY THE "O. N." SEWING CLASS FOR THEIR PROTEGES.

At the first approach of the penitential weeks private charitable organizations sprang to through the upper grades of New York society in response to the "Lenten suggestion," like wild flowers in May, in answer to the pressing invitation of the sunlight. But neither all the flavor nor the large assortment of Lenten classes are likely to prove "annuals."

A Lenten society that can, however, lay claim to this distinction is the "O. N. Sewing Class," begun in the spring of '92

Foundling Hospital are provided, every Spring with a suitable number of dainty made frocks, not ugly, coarse gingham

sleeves that render even naughty-looking infants winning in appearance. Such was the object in view, and the

for taste and style, could not be excelled in their own luxurious nurseries on Fifth avenue.

of entertainment and refreshment for her guests. This pleasant idea of amusing the ladies who are industriously plying needle and thread enables the class during the six meetings to hear the latest popular lecture, perhaps in French or Spanish; the fashionable finger, who is rarely heard of the boards; the Oriental mystic, and the "reader" of newest fame—only the famed and the exceptional are sought after by the hostesses of the day.

Perhaps the charm of the entertainment of these meetings can be better appreciated when it is known that the following ladies have been the hostesses of the



and at the present date boasting a membership of one hundred and fifty names that are familiar music to the public ear as among the patronesses and belles of the most notable social functions of the season.

The letters in the title of the class are the initials of the founders, Mrs. Charles Oelrichs and Mrs. Nelson, women whose charities are as boundless as their hospitality in New York. The increasing popularity of the organization may be due to many reasons—either that it is the fashion that the meetings on Friday morning of each week are interesting from a social point of view, or that charity, apart from an aesthetic standpoint, has been found to possess an attraction superior to gymnastics, luncheons or post-Lenten millinery.

The object of the class is to see that the nineteen hundred children of the New York



that make the little waifs all correspondingly uninteresting, but real "baby dresses," with ruffles and tucks and full



fact that the "O. N. Sewing Class" will turn over to the asylum in the neighborhood of seven thousand complete garments as a result of this season's Lenten endeavor gives the impression that they have not fallen far short of their ambition.

Of course this enormous amount of work is not all done at the six meetings of the class. Dozens of pieces are given out each week by different members to poor women in the city at a price far in advance of the usual shop wages, thus enabling the class to really accomplish a double charity.

It is a wonderful sight to watch the little nites clad in their fine and beautifully made frocks, happy as the day is long, laughing and playing about the huge sward of the great "Foundling Hospital," pretty, graceful children who seem so appropriately clad in the dainty garments that have been provided by charity instead of mother's love.

Sister Mary Irene, the founder and head of the hospital, says of the children: "We do not want them to feel like waifs and foundlings, without character or individuality, but to be just happy, merry children, and we like to see them in pretty clothes, even such as rich children would wear."

The ladies of the "O. N. Society" evidently agree with Sister Irene, and, at their morning meetings, fashion clothing which,



From 11 until 2 o'clock is the time set apart each Friday for these meetings, each hostess providing some novel mode



class. On February 21, Mrs. Nelson; February 28, Mrs. Brookholst; March 6, Mrs. Hermann Oelrichs; March 13, Mrs. Stuyvesant Fish. Mrs. Theodore Havemeyer entertained the members yesterday, which concluded the lecture series. Other well-known society women who are especially interested in the work are: Mrs. Rhineland, Mrs. Whitney Warren, Mrs. C. B. Alexander, Mrs. and Miss Astor, Mrs. Mortimer Brooks and Mrs. Salts.

A pet of the institution is shown in three different positions, wearing a gown which Mrs. Charles Oelrichs took delight in making for her. Two other attractive little girls, whose beaming countenances bespeak volumes for the care and tenderness which is part of their adopted home's regime, are illustrated.

MISS MORTON ON OFFICIAL LIFE.

Man's Wife Cannot Divert the Fire of His Foes, Says She; "Some Lovely Ones Have, However, Swayed Public Opinion."

"What do you think the duties of the wife of a man in official life are—in what way can she assist him, I mean?" was the question I asked, Miss Morton, sister of the Secretary of Agriculture, Mr. J. Sterling Morton, who does the hostilities of his official home. Miss Morton smiled very genially—in fact, she laughed most heartily.

"Well, now, I don't believe that she can assist him at all in popularizing himself. A man in official life has to stand or fall by his own actions, and nothing his wife may say or do will divert the fire of his foes, though it must be admitted that for the sake of some lovely wives public opinion smoulders a long time, often, before it openly repudiates the actions of the woman's husband. I am speaking generally," she added.

"Then a man in official position and the wife of that man must be considered as two people, the reputation of one not depending in the least upon the actions of the other, so far as social and political features are considered?" I said.

"How far may she mix in politics, in your opinion?" was the next question. "Not at all!" was the vigorous answer. "I don't think that a woman has any business at all in politics. There is no necessity for it. Men have

been able to manage politics thus far, and even if they do make a mess of it sometimes, I see no reason to believe that women would not make a worse one. I believe that a woman's province is the home. She has a wide field there and one in which she can reign supreme. She should widen her scope of ideas and broaden her judgment by contact with the thoughts and ideas of the best minds of the world, and should keep abreast mentally with her husband, and be a guide and mentor for her children. While her husband is keeping up with the political end of the line, she should so conduct his home, which should be at the other end of the line, that he will be glad to leave the turmoil of the outside world and seek its rest and quiet.



MISS EMMA MORTON.

"For myself, I have been my brother's companion for many years, and we both love our home. We always entertained a great deal in Nebraska, and I was heartbroken when I learned that we had to give up that happy life for one of publicity in Washington, and I would feel disgraced if I undertook to manage my brother's official or political affairs—if, indeed, he would permit such a ridiculous thing. He is quite competent to conduct the business of his office without assistance from me. I presume a woman could do her husband some injury if she were indiscreet in talking, but it would do her more harm than him.

"I do not wish to be understood as saying that I have not enjoyed Washington life, for I have. We have not entertained one-fifth as much here as we did in Nebraska, for we are not situated so that we can entertain on a large scale, but I enjoy meeting the people who attend our public receptions, and I have formed many pleasant and lasting friendships, but I shall, however, be glad to leave it all and go back home."

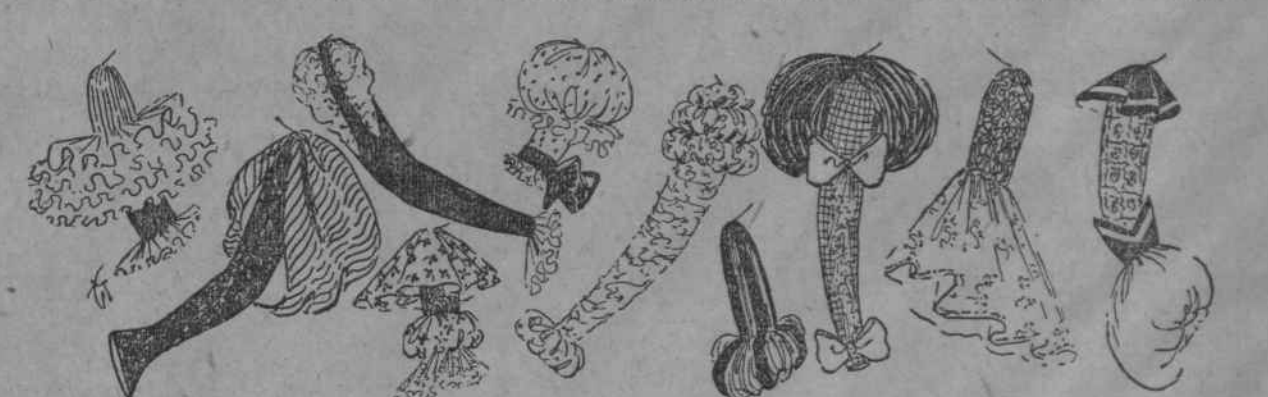
Miss Morton is not at all fond of political life. She is a comfortable, plump lady, of most charming manners and mental endowments far above the average. She is frank and outspoken, jolly as a school girl, and ought to be very much attached to Washington society, because it is to her. No woman in Cabinet circles puts on fewer frills and feathers than Miss Morton, yet she dresses with a quiet elegance that stamps her the lady and wins friends everywhere, till her receptions are among the largest in the city, just because people like her open-hearted welcome and her unstudied hospitality. Miss Morton has the advantage of most of the Cabinet ladies, in that she can speak with absolute purity the language of the German, as well as that of the French Ambassador, and that alone makes her popular with the foreign legations, since these two are "court" languages, and nothing so delights a foreigner as the discovery that his mother tongue is purely spoken by an American. It is an immediate passport to their favor.

NEWEST AND ELABORATE SLEEVES.

In spite of the protests of the multitude who have grown used to the balloon sleeves, and the denials of dealers with last year's goods to sell, sleeves are smaller. But let not the uninitiated imagine for an instant that sleeves are growing less conspicuous or less elaborate. On the contrary, for every inch subtracted from their voluminous folds, two inches of unexpected trimming appear. Occasionally there even seems to be a determined effort to conceal the fact that sleeves have been reduced in size by the massing of furbelows over the shoulders.

When Olga Nethersole first appeared in this country in "The Transgressor," she wore a negligee, the sleeves of which still linger in the memory of those who saw her as one of the most remarkable features of the play. They were small. They were of soft material, and they were shirred, not at the shoulder seams, but down the long back seam. And from the long back seam the material fell in a frill a few inches deep. In those days the sleeves seemed remarkable, but apparently they have been the model for not a few of the new sleeves. The style is, of course, eminently unsuited to heavy materials, but in thin silks, China crepes, and even organzies, it is pretty and effective.

Somewhat similar sleeves, minus the drooping frill, are seen on many frocks of the new, thin materials. That is, the shirring is a longwise affair and the arm is really enclosed in a wrinkled sleeve, suggestive of a long mousquetaire glove. Many of



these sleeves are finished by a double frill at the wrist and a double puff of small dimensions at the shoulder.

Other sleeves have the shoulders unimprovingly plain. The material not only fits closely at the top, but almost to the very elbow there is no fullness. Then a puff is put on over the narrow sleeve, sufficiently deep to cover the elbow well on both sides. In the swisses and organzies instead of a puff a bunch of narrow frills stands out all about the middle of the arm. Occasionally a bell-shaped piece is added to the shoulder, sewed into the shoulder seam, but quite distinct from the sleeve proper.

When the tight-fitting shoulder is too radical a change for a customer the dressmaker sometimes recommends a sort of shoulder "hood." It is frequently of contrasting material, and is gathered over the back of the sleeve, but is cut away from under the arm in hood shape.

Charmingly pretty sleeves for dinner and semi-dress gowns are made over tight-fitting blouses. They consist of alternate lines of passementerie and accordion-plated chiffon, breaking into a great puff at the elbow. Morning and house gowns have sleeves of a modified "angel" type. They are plain and tight-fitting at the top, but just above the elbow they broaden into voluminous, long-hanging folds.

A style which has its advantages for women who take due regard to the appearance of their hands, shows a puff above the wrists. The sleeve is plain or only slightly decorated from the shoulder to a point about three inches below the elbow. Then a big, soft puff of ribbon, the same in some contrasting color, is added, reaching almost to the wrist, where it is finished by a tight band. The slender effect given the wrist and hand by this style commends it to women almost as much as the broadening effect of shoulder puffs did the style just going out.

LITTLE JACK'S COUNTRY.

Little Jack and Aunt Nelly were walking through Central Park. They had wandered about at their own sweet will, fed the animals and altogether had a most satisfactory afternoon. But Jack looked at the asphalt walks and the trim, not-to-be-trespassed-on grass, and the thought of papa's great, free, open country place on Long Island came over him. "Aunt Nelly," he said, "I don't think they can ever make imitation country as nice as the real country, do you?" And Aunt Nelly, as she agreed with him, sighed in her heart for the myriads of children who never had anything but the "imitation" country all their lives.

The block of granite which was an obstacle in the pathway of the weak becomes a stepping-stone in the pathway of the strong.

WHAT SHE SAVED.

There was a fire in a house uptown the other evening, and as soon as it was discovered each member of the family hastily gathered up such valuables as were portable and near at hand and hurried into the street. After the excitement was over it was discovered that the daughter of the house, who had been suffering all day with neuralgia, had left her jewel box in the house and had carried out nothing but a well-filled hot-water bag.

Many people are sincere without being simple. They do not wish to be taken for other than what they are; but they are always fearing lest they should be taken for what they are not.

Life's a reckoning we cannot make twice over. You cannot mend a wrong subtraction by doing your addition right.

GUN AND ROD FOR WOMEN.

A Special Grade of Firearms Manufactured for Feminine Trade. Guns with Inlaid Stocks.

The sportswoman has been a long time making her debut in the civilized world, but once here she has come to stay. The woman was last seen for trout in June, reeled in a gunny bass in August and brought down a deer or moose on a frosty Winter day will not lightly relinquish such sport for shopping, croquet and afternoon tea.

And as women go forth to forest and stream in yearly increasing numbers there is expressed on every side a desire for rifle, shotgun and fishing tackle appropriate to the strength and agility of the gentler sex.

The extent to which this demand has been met in the past few years could perhaps be best realized by a visit to the sporting exhibition held this week at Madison Square Garden. Almost every firearm manufacturer displayed a line of goods adapted to the feminine trade.

It was noticeable that every booth that exhibited either rifles, shot guns, revolvers, fishing tackle or sporting goods supplies was providing liberally for women buyers, even in the decoration of firearms with gold, silver and mother-of-pearl mountings.

Besides the essential qualifications for a rifle, the woman who selects a hunting-piece must consider the questions of size and weight. It is necessary that every woman should test the weight of a rifle for herself, as many a day's sport has been ruined by the fatigue of carrying too heavy a gun. Every ounce counts after a few hours' tramping. A firm that makes a specialty of firearms for women considers a .22-calibre rifle, weighing 5½ pounds, a fair standard. This rifle is manufactured with a half octagon barrel, which lessens the weight and can be purchased for \$10.

The cheapest ladies' rifle in the market is \$6, and an especially good grade, with engraved stock and pistol grip, can be purchased for \$18.75. Although five and a quarter pounds is considered a fair weight of rifle for the average sportswoman, athletic maidens occasionally start into the woods carrying one weighing six and even six and a half pounds.

A lightweight repeating rifle, carrying sixteen cartridges, is one of the newest things in feminine firearms. The firm that puts it on the market also makes a feature of decorated stocks for the rifles and shotguns that are intended for the same trade. Some of the stocks are engraved and richly inlaid with gold and silver, others are ornamented with medallions in mother of pearl.

A beautiful gift rifle is often made to order, and engraved with the monogram of the fortunate sportswoman to whom it is sent. These fancy firearms vary in price, according to the amount of precious metal employed, from \$125 to \$500.

Women like to own them if they have a collection of guns, but for actual service the true sportswoman prefers a plain rifle, excellent as to workmanship, exactly suited to the physique in weight and size, and devoid of any suggestions of the jewelry shop.

A bad shot from a plain rifle is mortification enough to the amateur, but how infinitely conspicuous is a poor shot from a fancy rifle!

Shotguns that are also made with due reference to the uncultivated feminine biceps are displayed in twelve, fourteen and sixteen gauge. The sixteen gauge weighing five and a half pounds is preferred by the average woman. As yet, however, the shotgun is less popular than the rifle with sportswomen, and even for small game the rifle has a decided advantage.

The fact that women are becoming expert pistol shots has brought about the manufacture of "ladies' pistols" in every style and variety, and varying in expense according to the material used in decorating the handles, ivory or pearl handles adding \$10 to the price, while gold mounted pistols with engraved monograms cost upward of \$100.

Captain Summers, secretary of the Manhattan Revolver Club, in a short talk on women as crack pistol shots, said: "Certainly women are fine pistol shots. With an equal amount of training women become as accurate, if not more so, than men. And as expert as women are with the revolver, I think they are going to do even better work with the rifle."

"Who do I consider the best pistol shot? Well, there are a good many. Mrs. 'Jack' Astor is a crack shot. She shoots with a .44-calibre revolver at a distance of thirteen yards. Miss Anna Sands is also a fine revolver shot, as well as splendid all-round sportswoman. Mrs. Gustav Schwab follows Mrs. Astor very close on the list, and Miss Hoyet and Miss Pryor can show targets of which men would be proud."

As for fishing tackle, women have an unlimited assortment to select from. Split bamboo, lancewood and steel rods are displayed, weighing from three and a quarter to five ounces, and costing from \$7.50 to \$10. Of course, where the handles are inlaid with gold or of mother of pearl the price can be easily carried into the hundreds. A complete fishing outfit, including rods, reels, creel, landing net, tips, lines, flies and spoons, all can be got perfect in detail and finish, for the reasonable sum of \$40.

The lightness of fishing tackle, its daintiness and attractiveness, all render it especially desirable for women to handle, and the interest of fishing extends beyond the mere act of landing the trophy. Women not only become very much interested in the care of their tackle, the selection of flies, etc., but frequently get to be expert in the dainty art of fly making, and are as proud of their fly book as a North Woods guide.

Sporting goods for women are shown galore; cartridge belts, neat, trim and light; hunting boots and hats, leather-faced skirts, and jaunty sweaters are being manufactured for Dinahs large and small, tall and short, in all styles and at all prices.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

E. J. B.—I would suggest any one of a number of the first-class gymnasts, where you will be examined carefully and the proper exercise will be ordered for you. If you can bear bicycle riding it is better to reduce the hips than any other exercise I know of. I think you should also diet.

Allice—Herewith find formula for flesh food.

FLESH FOOD.

Oil of bitter almonds..... 10 grammes
Oil of sweet almonds..... 100 grammes
Bileum of olive..... 2 grammes
Tincture of benzoin..... 2 grammes
Essence of clove..... 2 drops
Essence of capsaicum..... 2 drops
Daisy—Try the following tonic to increase the growth of the eyebrows. Apply with small eyebrow pencil.
Cologne water..... 8 fluid ounces
Tincture of cardamom..... 1 ounce
Oil of lavender..... 15 fluid drachm
Oil of rosemary..... 15 fluid drachm
Mia.
Mrs. C. J., Truly Interested and M. A. C.—Answers to questions in a later article.

HARRIET HUBBARD AYER.

WOMAN LIVELY STABLE KEEPER.



MRS. SOPHIA WEIL.

Mrs. Sophia Weil has the honor to be the first woman in her field of labor. Six years ago her husband, who was rebuilding his livery stable, died. His widow stepped in and took charge of the business with such success that it is now thriving and occupies a fine large building.

Of her work she says: "Taking charge of and caring for a livery stable is a great strain on the nervous system, as there are many details that require attention. Yet, were I to start anew, I would ask no better kind of work."

"No, I have never been annoyed by any of my patrons. I do, indeed, come in contact with all forms of human nature, but my customers are the most civil and agreeable people one could meet. I have never felt one moment's regret for the step I have taken."

"At the present time I have housed eighty work horses, seventy of which belong to the best known dry goods merchants in the city. The remaining ten are for hire and are frequently called on. Besides these there are seventy-five wagons, also belonging to merchants, and three carriages."

"A great deal of attention is necessary to keep the stable in order. Every time a wagon is returned it has to be washed and the horses must be fed, clipped and returned to their different stalls."